

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6798

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05244

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, GW, BR
SUBJ: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S REMARKS ON
GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL.

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON MARCH 24. OUR DISCUSSION COVERED, INTER ALIA, PORTUGAL, CUBA, NON-PROLIFERATION, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND CSCE. THIS CABLE REPORTS GENSCHER'S REMARKS ON THE FRG-BRAZILIAN DEAL (OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED SEPTELS).
2. JUST BEFORE MY MEETING, WE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A WORKING-LEVEL CONTACT IN THE CHANCELLERY (WHO IS IN A POSITION TO KNOW) THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CONSENSUS IN THE MARCH 23 MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY COUNCIL TO GO AHEAD WITH THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES AFTER SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO BONN ON MARCH 31 AND NOT DELAY THEM UNTIL THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR MEET IN MAY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THIS SAME SOURCE, THERE HAD AS YET BEEN NO GOVERNMENTAL DECISION MADE TO ISSUE EXPORT LICENSES. (THE COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF CABINET OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR PARTIES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE UNIONS; IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT THE INFLUENCE OF A "CONSENSUS" IN THE COUNCIL WOULD BE STRONG.)

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3. IN MY DISCUSSION WITH GENSCHER I STRESSED THAT WE HAD REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE ABOUT THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE BLUEPRINTS IN ORDER TO FOLLOW UP THE SECRETARY'S AGREEMENT TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THEM. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF EXACTLY WHAT IS INVOLVED. EARLY

PROVISION OF THE INFORMATION WOULD SPEED UP OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

4. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT THE FRG IS WELL AWARE OF THE CONTINUED US INTEREST IN THE GERMAN APPROACH. HE ADDED THAT THE FRG IS CONVINCED THAT NON-PROLIFERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BRAZIL AND THAT THE FRG HAS A BASIS OF COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL. IT INTENDS, THEREFORE, TO STICK WITH THE AGREEMENTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE NUCLEAR ENERGY COUNCIL HAD MET ON MARCH 23, AT WHICH TIME THERE WAS A GREAT DEGREE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THINKING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS.

5. WHEN I PRESSED FOR A MORE COMPLETE ANSWER, AFTER EXPRESSING OUR EXPECTATION THAT THE DECISION ON THE EXPORT LICENSES WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL OUR REVIEW OF THE MATERIAL WE HAD REQUESTED COULD BE COMPLETED, GENSCHER ONLY CONFIRMED AGREEMENT THAT THE FONOFF WOULD PROVIDE US WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DIFFERENT PHASES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS. GENSCHER SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE

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POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE US WITH THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMPLETELY THE MASTER OF THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED.

6. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE HAD

BEEN ANY DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL OF THE QUESTION OF TIMING OF A DECISION ON WHETHER TO ISSUE EXPORT LICENSES, GENSCHER SAID THAT IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE FRG'S DELAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL SHOULD NOT BECOME, IN EFFECT, A DECISION TO CHANGE THE AGREEMENTS. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION, HE SAID, BUT HE ASSURED ME THAT THIS WHOLE QUESTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY VANCE WHEN HE COMES TO BONN MARCH 31.

7. COMMENT: GIVEN THE INFORMATION MENTIONED IN PARA 2 FROM A WORKING LEVEL CONTACT AND THE RETICENCE DISPLAYED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY, I AM CONCERNED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ARE NOT GOING IN A DIRECTION WE WOULD LIKE. I BELIEVE THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AN APPROACH TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE FRG BEFORE THE SECRETARY ARRIVES IN BONN. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO KEEP IN MIND THAT BOTH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER
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WILL BE IN ROME MARCH 24-25 FOR A MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, MEETING REPORTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, EXPORT LICENSES, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN05244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850050-2327, N770002-0166
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770328/aaaaaxul.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f14c20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3013365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S REMARKS ON GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, BR, GE, US, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f14c20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009